



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section

February 2025



New Technical Coordinator & SEC

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Upcoming Events

- 2/7-9** - Orlando Hamcation
2/22 - Dalton Hamfest
4/5-6 - Georgia State POTA Event
3/8 - GA ARES Training training.gema.ga.gov/trs

Georgia on My Mind is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, before the 5th of each month, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rbZFgq9k5JO45dYC4lvQNgB-6TqyO-S?usp=sharing>

Let's congratulate Brian Daly, WB7OML on his appointment to Georgia Section Technical Coordinator.

Brian Daly, WB7OML, holds an Extra Class amateur radio license and has dedicated his amateur radio career to public service and emergency

communications. He currently serves as the Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Forsyth County ARES, where he is the Education and Training Coordinator. Brian has a rich history of service, including roles as an Emergency Coordinator supporting Maricopa County (Arizona) Emergency Management, a member of the Arizona National Guard's Emergency Communications Support System, and a member of the Maricopa County Emergency Communications Group (MCECG) supporting public service events. He also served as the NWS Skywarn Coordinator for Maricopa County.

In addition, Brian has been a Board Member and Emergency Coordinator for the Western Washington Medical Services Emergency Communications Team in the Puget Sound region, supported the Seattle Auxiliary Communications Service, and coordinated NWS Seattle Skywarn.

Brian is currently a member of the ARRL's RF Safety Committee and was appointed to the FCC's Technological Advisory Council, where he co-leads the 6G working group. He also co-leads the 6G Security working group for the FCC's Communication Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council.

Brian holds an MS in electrical engineering from Arizona State University, with a focus on electromagnetic engineering, antennas, and propagation. He is an AT&T Fellow and a pioneer in wireless cellular technology, holding over 180 patents. One of his most notable achievements is the development of Wireless Emergency Alerts, and he is also involved in FirstNet technology development. Additionally, Brian is a CERT trainer, an FAA licensed remote pilot, and a 2nd Lt. in the Civil Air Patrol.

*Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ
Georgia Section Manager*

State ARES Meeting 3/8/25

Class Topic	Description	Instructor
Winlink - Class A	Getting started with Winlink basics. Downloading software, sending a telnet message, Go over settings, messages, & attachments. Sending a Template, Winlink Check-in.	Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ
Winlink - Class B	Advanced Winlink HF VARA Checking into the State net. Winlink P2P Basics VHF/HF differences in setup and operation between Gateway and P2P, how to send messages.	David Blubaugh, ND1J
D-Star - Class A	Introduction to the D-STAR System. Setting up your radio for DV (Digital Voice) for the first time. Checking into D-STAR Nets	John Davis, WB4QDX & Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH
D-STAR - Class B	This forum will discuss the capabilities of the DSTAR mode for digital voice and data. DSTAR is widely used by Georgia ARES and AUXCOMM for emergency communications utilizing DSTAR radios, hotspots and the statewide repeater network.	John Davis, WB4QDX & Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH
D-RATS - Class A	This forum will discuss the capabilities of the DRATS application which can be used on DSTAR radios and computers to send digital data including file transfer, position reporting and chat. DRATS is widely used as a part of Georgia ARES Nets and emergency communications.	John Davis, WB4QDX & Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH
D-RATS - Class B	This forum will discuss the capabilities of the DRATS application which can be used on DSTAR radios and computers to send digital data including file transfer, position reporting and chat. DRATS is widely used as a part of Georgia ARES Nets and emergency communications.	John Davis, WB4QDX & Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH
ARRL Traffic Handling	The presentation will cover the National Traffic System Radiogram Form. It will include a review of the radiogram form with a focus on details of passing and delivering radiogram traffic.	Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ
Net Control Station (NCS) Operational Procedures	This presentation will cover the Duties, Responsibilities and Best Practices of serving as a net control station. This will include various types of nets, preambles, traffic handling and liaison stations. We will discuss guidelines and qualities of serving as a net control operator.	Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ
EC 101	This class will cover: ARES Support to the EOC, Crisis Communications Challenges, and Public Safety Expectations	Jim Millsap, K9APD

States ARES Meeting p. 2

Class Topic	Description	Instructor
Deployment & Portable Operations	1. Provide communications for parking lots and parades.2. Provide communications for shelters, & other deployment sites.3. Provide communications for local Emergency Operations Center, Sheriff's Office, & Fire Stations.	Frank Dean, K4SJR & Felton Floyd, AF4DN
Emergency Power	Batteries, generators, and solar panels.	Frank Dean, K4SJR & Felton Floyd, AF4DN
Introduction to Hospital Operations	For over 20 years the Georgia Hospital Operations team has supported hospitals and health facilities throughout the State by training amateur radio operators to deploy to their local facility during emergency and disaster events. Hospital operators meet or exceed ARRL Level 1 proficiency to support facilities by providing auxiliary communications utilizing VHF/UHF, HF, and digital communications capabilities during disasters in the event of loss of communications capabilities (internet, phone, and cellular service) at the affected facility. This Forum will be an overview of our Hospital Emergency Operations plan and is mandatory training for all hospital operators.	Bret Smith
HIPAA Training for Hospital Operators	This Forum will provide the required training to understand and adhere to the patient privacy rights of confidentiality and is mandatory training for all hospital operators.	Bret Smith

For additional information, please see <https://gaares.org/ga-ares-state-meeting-2025/>

REGISTRATION – IMPORTANT

All attendees of the meeting MUST BE REGISTERED under GEMA rules. Registration is available at the meeting, but this process is much more time consuming than the check-in process for preregistered attendees.

You are encouraged to register on the GEMA website.

1. Go to [Training, Exercise & Response Management System – Login \(ga.gov\)](#)
2. If you know your Login ID and Password, login. If you forgot your Login ID/Password, click the link on the page to reset your credentials.
3. If you do not have an account, click the First Time Registration link.
After logging in, click on the Calendar link on the left side of the page.
4. On the calendar page, click the 'Month' box and select 'Mar 2025'

43RD ANNUAL DALTON HAMFEST

FEBRUARY 22, 2025

8 AM - 2 PM

\$5 ENTRY

\$10 NDOOR TABLES

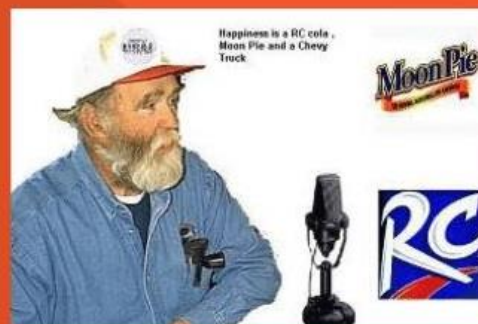
\$5 PER TAILGATE SPACE (8 FEET)

**TEST SESSION 1 PM AT YELLOWSTONE BUFFET FOR
ALL LICENSE CLASSES**

NORTH GEORGIA AG FAIR
500 LEGION DRIVE
DALTON, GA 30721

THREE LARGE BULDINGS OF
NEW AND USED RADIO GEAR

for details contact Greg
Williams, N4JGW via email
w4drchamfest@yahoo.com



ARISS

Dave Jordan, AA4KN
dave.jordan@ariss-usa.org

ARISS News Release No. 25-02



Call for Proposals

New Proposal Window is January 13, 2025 – February 28, 2025

January 14, 2025 --- The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program is seeking formal and informal education institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an Amateur Radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS. ARISS anticipates that the contact would be held between **July 1, 2025** and **December 31, 2025**. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan.

The deadline to submit a proposal is February 28th, 2025. Proposal information and more details such as expectations, proposal guidelines and the proposal form can be found at www.ariss.org. An ARISS Introductory Webinar session will be held on January 22nd at 8 PM ET. The Zoom link to sign up is: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/kznKuyHCRyKi8_j00JBd_g

The Opportunity

Crew members aboard the International Space Station will participate in scheduled Amateur Radio contacts. These radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes in length and allow students to interact with the astronauts through a question-and-answer session.

An ARISS contact is a voice-only communication opportunity via Amateur Radio between astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the space station and classrooms and communities. ARISS contacts afford education audiences the opportunity to learn firsthand from astronauts what it is like to live and work in space and to learn about space research conducted on the ISS. Students also will have an opportunity to learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science. Because of the nature of human spaceflight and the complexity of scheduling activities aboard the ISS, organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in dates and times of the radio contact.

Amateur Radio organizations around the world with the support of NASA and space agencies in Canada, Japan, Europe and Russia present educational organizations with this opportunity. The ham radio organizations' volunteer efforts provide the equipment and operational support to enable communication between crew on the ISS and students around the world using Amateur Radio.

ARISS News Release No. 25-07

Fram2Ham SSTV Simulation on ISS

February 1, 2025 - The ARISS international team has devised a proficiency training SSTV (Slow Scan Television) exercise to prepare all SSTV image receivers for what to expect on the upcoming Fram2 mission.

Fram2 Mission and Fram2Ham Payload Overview

Fram2 is a pioneering private astronaut mission, the first to fly astronauts over the North and South poles. Fram2 will give the four on-board astronauts unprecedented first views of the polar regions from space. While astronauts on the ISS can see a large portion of the Earth, it is not possible to see these upper regions of Earth from the ISS. Fram2 is planned to be launched no earlier than March 1, 2025 and is planning a 3 day mission with an optional 2 day extension.

The amateur radio experimental payload on Fram2, called Fram2Ham, is also pioneering in nature. It represents the first use of human spaceflight amateur (ham) radio in polar orbit and the first amateur radio transmissions from a SpaceX Dragon capsule. Fram2Ham operations are being performed by private astronaut Rabea Rogge, amateur radio callsigns LB9NJ (Norway) and KD3AID (USA).

Fram2Ham will transmit Slow Scan Television (SSTV) picture images from space to radio receivers on the ground as part of a high school and university student competition. These SSTV images can also be received by radio enthusiasts (hams, educators, and youth) worldwide and posted to the ARISS SSTV Gallery—but with a twist. Images posted will not be shown until after the Fram2 mission. These operations support the youth SSTV competition, where they are to acquire several SSTV “Puzzle Pieces,” assemble

the puzzle, determine the polar location, and answer questions related to that location.

For more information on the Fram2 mission and for youth organizations interested in participating in the Fram2Ham SSTV competition, see: f2.com and Fram2Ham.com. ARISS also has a Fram2 tab on its website www.ariss.org.

Fram2Ham SSTV Simulation on ISS

The ARISS international team is planning an SSTV event to help all participating to be as proficient as possible in acquiring images from Fram2Ham and submitting them in the SSTV gallery. Like previous SSTV events, ARISS will provide special commemorative certificates for those who upload images to the gallery. Certificates will be delivered after the completion of both the Fram2 simulation event and the Fram2 mission.

SSTV Simulation details

ARISS radio: The Kenwood TM-D710GA transmitter will be set to low power (5 watts vs. 25 watts for previous SSTV events). This is to simulate the challenges and unknowns of a new radio system on a Dragon capsule that might be in an unfavorable attitude in some parts of the mission flight path.

Operations Frequency: 437.550 MHz. Using the SSTV (public downlink) planned for Fram2Ham, ground users can practice the more challenging 70 cm doppler correction.

SSTV Mode: PD120. The longer image capture for this simulation (120 seconds, vs. 36 seconds for Fram2Ham's Robot 36 SSTV mode) will allow ground users to hone their signal polarization switching skills (manually and electronically) as well as precise antenna pointing.

Operations Duration: February 13 (World Radio Day) to February 17, 2025. This long duration, over a weekend, will allow users multiple passes to practice, learn lessons, make corrections, and try again.

SSTV Gallery Site: https://ariss-usa.org/ARISS_SSTV/

Summary

Fram2Ham will be an exciting, first of its kind, mission and the first ham radio operations in a space capsule. Fram2Ham signal propagation will not be fully understood until the mission starts and ground users report their results. Since variations of antenna orientation are expected during the

mission, SSTV downlinked signals might be heard to the right or left of the flight path, during the ascending or descending part of the flight path or beamed to space instead of to Earth. In addition, Fram2 will be a short, 3-day, mission duration, with maybe 1-2 higher elevation passes per day and with a startup several hours after launch and shutdown several hours before reentry. These challenges require operating proficiency and the use of the best attainable radio station. Our Fram2Ham pioneers need to be prepared and proficient. Are you up for the challenge?

About ARISS:

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the United States, sponsors are the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN) and the ISS National Lab—Space Station Explorers. The primary goal of ARISS is to promote exploration of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics topics. ARISS does this by organizing scheduled contacts via amateur radio between crew members aboard the ISS and students. Before and during these radio contacts, students, educators, parents, and communities take part in hands-on learning activities tied to space, space technologies, and amateur radio. For more information, see <http://www.ariss.org>.

Media Contact:
Dave Jordan, AA4KN
ARISS PR

Find us on social media at:

X: [ARISS_Intl](#)

Facebook: facebook.com/ARISSIntl

Instagram: [ariss_intl](#)

Mastodon: ariss_intl@mastodon.hams.social

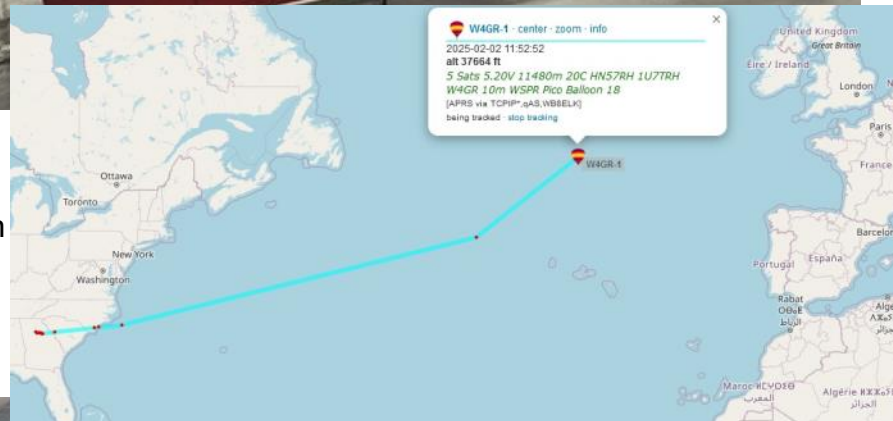
Check out ARISS on Youtube.com.



TechFest



Thank You to everyone who came out for TechFest this year. Weather was great, and the presenters were energized! Jack McElroy's forum, KM4ZIA, was standing room only and the balloon launch was a success. The photo is our balloon's current track as of Monday morning, heading toward the UK. You can track it too on [APRS.FI](https://aprs.fi) by making a search for our club call sign W4GR-1 A video of the launch can be seen at <https://youtube.com/shorts/HcT4COgwViw?si=aqHf3owR3UQ0XPac>



Club Activities

Rambler Radio Club

January 2025 marks the 18th year of Rambler Radio Club of LaFayette Middle School.

To celebrate, Rambler Radio Club hosted an 18th Birthday Party on January 9th, 2025 after school in the Media Center of LaFayette Middle School. How did we celebrate? With some radio time powered by "The Littles" - Little Debbies and Little Caesar's!

The Birthday Party was a drop-in event - for our ham radio friends, we were on our local repeater (145.350 on Lookout Mountain) and on HF as well. We were on the air from 3:30pm till 5:30pm. That same night, Rambler Radio Club also hosted Tri-States Amateur Radio Club's Testing Session and Regular January meeting which began at 7:00pm.

(A little history: First issued the club callsign KI4TEY on January 29, 2007, Rambler Radio Club applied for and was issued the current callsign W4LMS on August 20, 2010.)

Jody Carter, Sponsor, LaFayette Middle School
Rambler Radio Club (W4LMS)
www.w4lms.us ARISS Contact #740 (9.21.12)



37 amateur radio clubs benefitted from \$500,502 in grants through the ARRL Club Grant Program! Some examples of the work that will be accomplished via these grants include upgrades to antennas within Florida's SARNet, a statewide linked UHF repeater network that is used extensively by emergency managers during hurricanes; enhancement of amateur radio-based telemetry systems onboard Illinois Space Society projects, and many programs targeting youth outreach.

Funding for the grants comes from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications](http://www.arl.org/club-grant-program) (ARDC)
LEARN MORE about the ARRL Club Grant Program: [arl.org/club-grant-program](http://www.arl.org/club-grant-program)

The Amateur Radio Club of Butts County recently donated a set of Amateur Radio related books to the Jackson-Butts County Public Library. The eleven book set is published by the ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio. The set includes Amateur Radio technical text books, the latest Amateur Radio licensing guides and the Federal Communications Commission's Amateur Radio Rules & Regulations guide. The books are available for circulation at the Jackson-Butts County Public Library, 436 E. College Street, Jackson.

The Amateur Radio Club of Butts County is an ARRL Affiliated Club and is part of the Butts County Amateur Radio Emergency Services program. The club is committed to providing service to our community and an opportunity for licensing, mentoring and learning about the many interesting aspects of HAM radio. If you are interested in amateur radio, please consider attending our club meetings held on the first Monday of the month (second Monday if a holiday falls on the first week) at Butts County Fire Station #7, 144 Colwell Road at 7 PM. You will find more information about the ARCBC and Amateur Radio on the club's website (<http://www.bcgares.org>), Facebook page and at www.arl.org.

Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK



Club Activities

Milledgeville Amateur Radio Club

Post Action Report for the 3rd Annual Sgt. Monica 5K and One Mile Fun Run Event.

Alan Slutsky, KA4FJV, Nathan Kring II, KQ4BTS and I, AG4NI supported the 5K and Fun Run today. The weather was perfect, and no injuries or mishaps occurred, everything ran smoothly. Alan covered the Registration area; I was at the ½ way point and Nathe was "Rover 1" as he participated in the 5K! The proceeds of this event fund scholarships for GCEC and BHS Seniors, so it was for a worthy cause.

Alan, Nathe and I were in public view with our radios for hours, maximizing our visibility to show folks that Ham Radio is still alive and has a place in our society. We socialized with other volunteers, the Milledgeville Police and the participants during the event and represented our hobby well!

This is an annual event and occurs at about the same time every year, on or about the week of Sgt. Monica's birthday – this Tuesday he would have celebrated his 50th birthday.

This event was easy to cover, since it's a 5K it only takes folks about an hour to complete the course, so it didn't take all day. I was able to communicate from the farthest point from Alan with us both using HTs on their 1W power setting, so no repeater was necessary we were on 146.43 simplex the whole time. Everyone got a Chik-fil-A chicken biscuit and a piece of cake at the finish line. I would like to see more Hams join us next year so Nathe and I can run the 5K together – with HTs in hand, of course!



POTA - Parks on the Air



2025 Contest Period:

Start: April 5, 2025 @ 8:00am EDT (1200UTC)

End: April 6, 2025 @ 7:59pm EDT (2359UTC)

<https://gaparks.org/>

Coastal Amateur Radio Society

April 5 & 6 at Skidaway State Park - Picnic Shelter 5. This Club Event is open to all who wish to come, visit talk radio, operate or just hang out. Hope you will join in the fun.

Please go to the GA State Parks on the Air site and register as attending as a club event. Even if you may not make it register to discourage another activator. As of now we are allowed in at 1000, I hope we can start a little earlier. A parking pass is required, \$5 so be ready for that if you don't have a pass.

Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

Gil, AG4JO, and Kelly, K4DDE, are hosting a POTA meetup in Northwest Georgia for **May 3, 2025**. The get-together will be in Carter's Lake WMA US -7899 at 750 Powerhouse Rd, Chatsworth, GA 30705.

The large picnic shelter is rented for the event and has room for up to 100 people and there's plenty of room for multiple radios and antennas. Bring your own or try out some of the rigs there. We will be at the picnic shelter from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. The public is welcome to come enjoy Ham Radio and get in a Parks on the Air activation. Gil says, "we decided we'd have hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork. Yeah, barbecue I'm gonna do the barbecue personally".

Winter Field Day

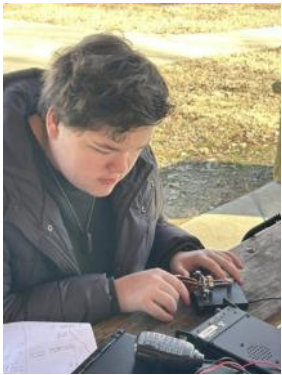
Athens



Middle Georgia



Atlanta



Columbus



Cherokee County



Winter Field Day

Glynn County



Thomasville



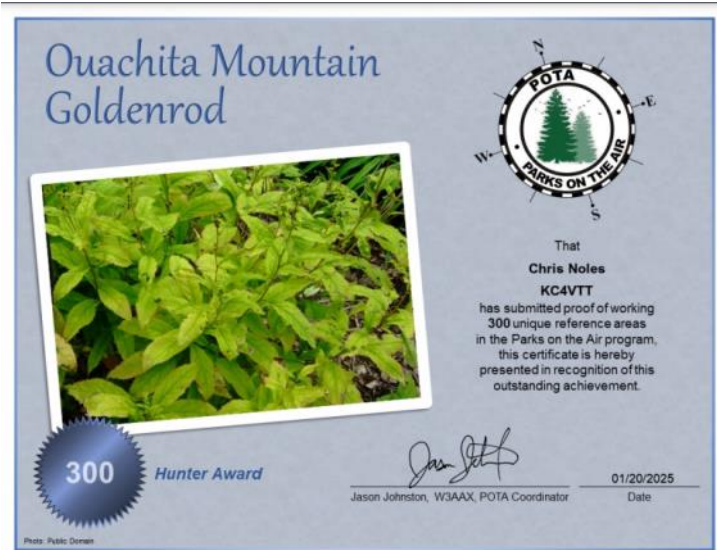
Monroe County



TriCounty



Awards & more news



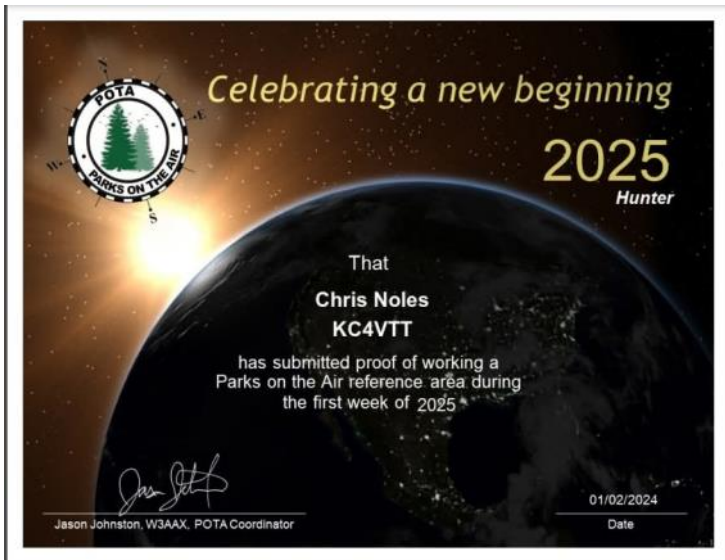
Coastal Amateur Radio Society

WFD went off without a hitch, I would say 10 or more braved the conditions to attend. Actually most of the main roads were clear. Ralph provide coffee and breakfast treats along with killer chili.

While it was chilly under the pavilion, it was nice in the sun. We set up two stations, one on the end fed over the sidewalk and the regular Pacific antenna by the river. We were able to operate on 15M and 20M WITH NO BAND PASS FILTERS! Total contacts was 122, one Canadian and one DX. Only three operated, need more to rotate the operators out to warm up. Log submitted.

Dan came in from SC to test his Microwave set up. It was impressive. He is looking to find other microwave enthusiast to work with.

All in all I think everyone had a good time visiting or eating.



Teachers Institute

All 9 teachers came away with their amateur licenses along with the training, knowledge, and excitement to integrate amateur radio into their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics lessons at the first field session of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology!



TI graduate Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, helped lead the session at the Staten Island Technical High School where he is educator. Other sessions are planned for Texas and the Southeast during 2025. Interested educators are encouraged to apply and should head to the following link to learn more: www.arrl.org/ti

Dots, Dashes & Tidbits

Georgia Section Nets

ARES Phone & Digital Nets

Conducted on Sundays

unless there is a declared emergency

Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at gaares.org – Select Nets & Frequencies

Georgia Section ARES Net:

Section Net Manager: Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

kn4qj@arrl.net

Sundays @ 2200 UTC on 3975 KHz.

Net control operator: Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

Alt. net control operator: Jim Altman, W4UCK

Alt. net control operator: Frank Dean - K4SJR

Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:

Section Digital Net Manager & Asst. Section Traffic

Manager - Don Jones, K4GO k4go@arrl.net

Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

Winlink Net Manager: Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Sun. 0001-2100 Send checkins to GAARES-Net

Net control operator: Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ

Net control operator: Mark Bell, N7GRB

Net control operator: David Blubaugh, ND1J

Net control operator: Brian Freeman, KN4DLT

Net control operator: Bill Hall, K9HRO

Winlink P2P Net Manager: David Blubaugh, ND1J

Sun. 0800-1400 Send checkins to GAARES-P2P

PSK & Traffic Nets Net Manager Kory Oldham, W4RZ

Traffic Sun. @ 2100 UTC -PSK125 every odd month

Net control operator: Richard Austin, W4BYT

Net control operator: David Blubaugh, ND1J

Net control operator: Bob Garza, K4TLG

Net control operator: Don Jones, K4GO

Net control operator: Ken Wallis, KM4HOS

DStar Net 3rd Monday of month, 2030 on REF3A

National Traffic System (NTS) Nets

CW Nets

Georgia State Net (GSN): Medium speed CW

Net Manager, John Laney - K4BAI Alt.

Daily at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on 3549 KHz.

Georgia Training Net (GTN): Slow speed CW

Net Manager, Jerry Brunet - WE4GA

Daily at 9:00 pm 3549 KHz.

Phone Nets

Georgia Cracker Net:

Net Manager, John Collette - AF4XZ

Daily at 0700 Mon-Sat, 0800 Sun. on 3995 KHz.

Georgia Single Sideband Association Net:

Net Manager, Terry Cantrell - W4WTC

Nightly at 2300 UTC on 3975 KHz.

web address: gssaradio.net

Georgia Traffic and Emergency Net (GTEN):

This net has been merged with the GA SSB Assoc net, held every night (see above).

VEs - If you, or your club, offers testing, please forward the positive results of your session, so that the new (or upgraded) hams may receive recognition on this page.

GeorgiaSectionARRL @ gmail.com

New SEC Installed

At the February 1 TechFest, a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Lee Stone, KT4LS, for his service as SEC (Section Emergency Coordinator) for the last three years. Lee is stepping down to enjoy some much deserved personal time.

Stepping into his place, Frank Dean, K4SJR, will be resuming his previous position (GA SEC Nov. 2016 - Jan. 2022) as Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator.

